

### Tips for a Successful Fair

1. Pen reservations and entry fee are due to the Rabbit Committee by June 20.
2. Printed reservation form must be complete with sex, color, age, and ear numbers (no blank ear numbers).
3. Confirm your rabbit is sexed correctly. If it is entered into the wrong class, it will not be shown.
4. You can scratch a rabbit due to illness, death, molt, etc. or if you choose to not bring it for whatever reason. You can substitute rabbits if they are in the same class (breed, sex, age, and color) as the original rabbit. If you entered a meat class and your rabbit does not make weight, then you can change it to a heavier class.
4. If rabbits are tattooed just before fair, the ink must be removed in order for the numbers to be read.
5. Nails should always be trimmed before entering to avoid excess scratches on volunteers checking in rabbits.
6. Check in is 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Please be patient as Open Show is going on at the same time.
7. Know your rabbit's ear number or have a list made out to bring with you. This will be a tremendous help if the number cannot be read.
8. Once you are checked in and all rabbits are put away, please clean up around your area.

Boys are **bucks** and girls are **does** (not males and females).



# 2020 La Porte County 4-H Rabbit Project Handbook



### LaPorte County 4-H Rabbit Committee Members:

Sally Dipert, Rod LaGard, Tammy LaGard,  
Matt Mueller, Angie Rose, Jody Rose, Tim Rozinski,  
Kim Saylor, Nancy Williamson

Purdue Extension LaPorte Co. 4-H Office  
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Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to an exciting year of fun and learning. Please read the information in this pamphlet and keep in a safe place as it contains information for the entire 2020 4-H program year.

Fair time set-up/tear-down of the food stand and rabbit barn, along with working shifts in the food stand financially supports the 4-H Rabbit program. Each year, the stand is better and better because of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Please call Jody Rose at 219-608-4372 to learn how you can help.

We want your family to have a great experience learning about rabbits. Questions can be directed to committee members, Facebook: La Porte Co 4-H Rabbit Project or Purdue Extension (219) 324-9407.

- **Ownership Notice:** Rabbits must be owned and cared for by 4-H members, and only shown by the exhibitor, from May 15<sup>th</sup> through to fair.
- **YQCA Requirement:** To exhibit rabbits, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, waterfowl, pigeon 4-H members **must** be YQCA certified. Pre-registration and fee payment is required at <http://yqca.org> prior to attending a workshop or participating online.
- **Tattooing Sessions-** All rabbits exhibited must have a tattoo in the rabbit's left ear. There is a \$1 charge per rabbit, with a maximum charge of \$10, at select workshops. Tattooing will not take place during fair. *Note: The Committee cannot be held responsible for injury or death of rabbit as a result of tattooing.*
- **4-H Academy: Attention High School Members** Food Animal 2 (Swine, Poultry, Rabbit, Aquaculture) Science Workshop is June 10-12, 2020 at Purdue University. This three-day workshop is a great learning opportunity and also a lot of fun. Your only cost is transportation as 4-H Council will sponsor your registration fee. Please contact the a committee member or the Extension Office by March 15 if you are interested in attending.
- **Scholarship: Attention Seniors:** Annual scholarships are awarded by the Rabbit Committee. To qualify, you must be a current member and have completed 6 years in the Rabbit project. Applications are available at the Extension Office and at Rabbit workshops.
- **Fair Concession/Food Stand** Each year, the stand buys rabbits from members, creating a market for our members to sell their rabbits. We will buy all breeds at \$.75 per pound live weight. If you wish to sell rabbits, contact Jody Rose at 608-4372 or Nancy Williamson at 219-369-9314.

We need help deboning the rabbits. These steps are very easy to learn and if everyone would offer to help, it would lighten the load for all. Our theory is, "come when you can and leave when you have to." We will compensate everyone who helps with payment of "Bunny Bucks," which can be redeemed at the food stand during fair. Processing dates will be announced at the workshops. Rabbits are not harvested that day.

**Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Workshop** pre-entry form and entry money to the Rabbit Committee. We will also be reviewing what you need to bring to fair. Gray's Cage Supply dealer from Kalamazoo, MI will be on-site. Pre-orders are preferred; it is to your benefit to pre-order. To place an order, please call 1-269-858-6544. If no answer, please leave a message. If interested after the workshop we will go over meat pen selection. This workshop will feature a review of check-in procedures and cover "Fair Survival". Bring a rabbit and nail trimmers if you need assistance.

**July 26, Rabbit Achievement Dinner/Banquet** Mark your calendars to honor our 4-H rabbit members for all of their hard work, bring a dish to share!

## Contests

- **Showmanship Contest** – This contest places the emphasis on the 4-H member and how they show their rabbit, not the quality of their rabbit.
- **Rabbit Ambassador Contest** – The winner reigns over LaPorte Co. Fair week and moves on to the Indiana State Fair competition. Contest consists of written test, Breed ID, showmanship, and behavioral expectations. Specific information will be presented at the first workshop.
- **Costume Class** - Think of unique ways to dress up you and your bunny in a costume. Held at the Rabbit Banquet. Shana Mueller with any questions.



## Important Dates

Members should attend at least 2 workshops!

March 11 (W)	6:30-8p.m. at Fairgrounds Small Projects Bldg. <b>Workshop 1 of 4:</b> Work with fellow 4-H Rabbit Project members exploring the Rabbit Learning Lab kits.
April 3	Meat Pens/Single Fryers/Carcass, Breeding Date
April 22 (W)	6:30-8p.m. at Fairgrounds Small Projects Bldg. <b>Workshop 2 of 4:</b> Work with fellow 4-H Rabbit Project members exploring the Rabbit Learning Lab kits.
April 22	Doe & Litter Breeding Date
May 13 (W)	<b>Workshop 3 of 4 :</b> Pre-entry, nesting box care
May 15	Rabbit Ownership Deadline
June 20 (Sa)*	Pen reservations and entry fee due 8-9a.m. Tattooing at Rabbit Barn 9-11a.m. <b>Workshop 4 of 4</b> in Rabbit Barn - Cage dealer and mock judging
July 10 (F)	Open Show Check-in
July 11 (Sa)	Open Show 12-3p.m. Rabbit Check-In for Fair
July 12 (Su)	Rabbit Contests/Showmanship
July 18	2p.m. Rabbit Barn Closed 4p.m. Rabbit Release
July 25	Barn Clean Up
July 26* (Su)	Rabbit Achievement Banquet 4p.m. at Fairgrounds Community Bldg.

## La Porte County 4-H Rabbit Committee

Sally Dipert	219-362-8617	General Questions, Tattooing
Rod LaGard	219-898-5364	General Questions
Tammy LaGard	219-898-5365	General Questions
Matt Mueller	219-380-4672	Pee Wee, Costume Class, Show Stager
Angie Rose	219-608-4373	General Questions, Trophies, Fun Photo Contest
Jody Rose	219-608-4372	Processing, Barn Set Up, Food Stand
Tim Rozinski	219-448-1167	General Questions
Kim Saylor	574-952-1104	Rabbit Man
Nancy Williamson	219-369-9314	General Questions

### Entry and Show Details

**Pre-entry forms** (pen reservations) and entry fee are to be turned in to Rabbit Committee Secretary/Treasurer, no later than the last workshop (June 20). No exceptions to deadline and substitutions at entry time only in same class.

#### Entering Rabbits

- Rabbits **MUST HAVE** a permanent tattoo.
- Rabbit Record Sheet, are also due at this time.
- **DO NOT** give your record sheet to your local club leader, but have it signed by them.
- There is no early release of rabbits. Removing rabbits before checkout time will result in forfeit of premiums. Release time is Saturday, July 18 at 4:00 p.m. Barn closes at 2:00 p.m., pens must be cleaned out.

**Senior Members** - Senior age rabbit members (8th grade and up) may show an unlimited number of breeds- but still no more than 12 entries in the show classes.

**Junior Members** (3rd-7th grade) - Can show no more than 3 breeds.

**Rabbit Show** – 4-H member is responsible for showing their own rabbit; or, **it is your responsibility** to find a fellow 4-H member to show your rabbit if you are unable to be two places at once. Committee Members cannot bring rabbits to the table. Three calls will be made for the member. If the rabbit is not brought to the table after the third call, the judge will move on to the next rabbit.

## Entry and Show Details Cont.

**ARBA Open Class Rabbit Show**- Saturday, July 11th at 8:00 a.m. Check with Rabbit Committee Members for details. This is a carrying cage show. If you are showing in Open Class, you need to check-in rabbits with the committee at the check-in station BEFORE placing rabbits in their fair cages. Pre-entry is necessary through the La Porte County Fair Office. Rabbit Food stand will be open.

## Meat Classes

Rabbit must be raised by the 4-H member and may show in two meat classes, but will only be able to auction one. DQ rabbits cannot sell in the auction.

**Meat Pens/Single Fryers**– Breeding date for meat pens and single fryers is April 3rd. This will make your bunnies 70 days old the day they are judged. Rabbits need to be over 3 1/2 lbs and a maximum of 5 1/2 lbs.

**Roasters**– Need to weigh over 5 1/2 lbs. and a maximum of 9 lbs. Rabbits are less than 6 months of age on check-in day.

**Stewers** – All rabbits must be 6 months of age or older and weigh a minimum of over 8 pounds.

**Carcass Class** - Must weigh 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 pounds and 10 weeks old. Judging is based on yield weight following ARBA rules. This class does not count as a meat class entry.

**Doe & Litter Requirement**- The litter must be **7 weeks of age** at check-in. Be sure to breed on April 22nd; too young or too old will be sent home. Doe & Litter does not count as one of your 12 entries. There will be 2 categories – 4 class and 6 class. Members may exhibit one entry in each category.

## Fair Schedule

<b>Mon., July 6</b>	Rabbit Education poster projects due.
<b>Fri., July 10</b>	Time TBA      Check-in for Open Show
<b>Sat., July 11</b>	8a.m.            Open Rabbit Show 12-3p.m.        Check-in rabbit(s)
<b>Sun., July 12</b>	Interactive Demonstrations
<b>Mon., July 13</b>	10:30a.m.      Rabbit Ambassador Announcement & Presentation of Awards 11a.m.          Judging Meat Pens, Single Fryers, Stewers, Roasters, Caracass, and Doe & Litter Interactive Demonstrations, Deadline to enter photos for Rabbit Fun Photo Contest
<b>Tues., July 14</b>	9a.m.            4 Class Breeds (Grades 3-12) Interactive Demonstrations
<b>Wed., July 15</b>	9a.m.            6 Class Breeds (Grade 3-12)

## Fair Schedule Cont.

**Thurs., July 16** Interactive Demonstrations  
6p.m. Fun Rabbit Races

**Fri., July 17**    Rabbit Auction, 4-H Show Arena  
Auctioned rabbits released after auction.  
Interactive Demonstrations

**Sat., July 18**    10a.m. Pee Wee Rabbit Show (Kindergarten—2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
Interactive Demonstrations  
4p.m.    Rabbits released

**Interactive Demonstration:** Interactive demonstrations are given by 4-H members in the Rabbit Barn during fair. Your job as the demonstrator is to interest those visiting the rabbit barn to try your hands-on activity/demonstration. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Rabbit Barn.

**Fun Photo Contest:** Take pictures of your bunnies and display in the Rabbit Barn for everyone to see. 4-Her's do not need to be in the Rabbit project to exhibit.

- Two Divisions: Juniors grade 3-7      Seniors grade 8-12
- Two groups: Black and White and Color

Each exhibitor may choose color or black and white and/or do one in each category but not two of the same grouping. They may be a single photo or a group but will be judged in their color category grouping.

Any size or shape can be displayed, captions can be added and must be framed and ready to hang with hanger. Name must be on the back.

The standard Photographry score sheet will be used for judging. All entries can be turned in up to 11a.m on Monday of Fair.

Awards for grand and reserve in each group and each division. These will be given out at the Rabbit Banquet.

**Fun Rabbit Races (just for fun)** - Sign-up by noon on Thursday of fair. Rabbits complete an obstacle course, competing for best time. Practicing with your rabbit ahead of time will get you the best results! Practices with the obstacle equipment will be held during judging practices in April.

**Mini 4-H Pee Wee Rabbit Show**– Mini 4-H members (K - 2nd grade) can participate. For more details contact Matt Mueller.

**Cage Cleaning- Saturday, July 25 9:00 a.m.** Be sure to mark your calendars; **entry fee money is returned** if you help at least two hours on this day. Bring the whole family!